

THE REHEARSAL.

1. All *Olivers* the same. *Coercion* is only *Scaffolding*.
2. The *Revolution* Avoided *Coercion*, and did not *Establish* it. The *Observer* would *Hang* Himself; if he were a *King*. No *Parliament* will *Establish* *Coercion*.
3. The *Philosopher's Stone* the *Whiggs* would find out in *Government*.
4. It is beyond the *Extremest Folly*. It is a *Judicial Infatuation*. But more in us than in any other *People*.
5. The *Deep Tincture* of *Rebellion*. It is *Rarely Repented* of.
6. The *Good* the *Rehearsals* have done, by way of *Provocation* to the *Whiggs* to *Answer*, and not *Scold*.
7. The *Rehearsal* and the *Observer* Write in *Concert* by *Chance*.

SATURDAY, September 18. 1708.

(1.) *Country-man*.

THE *Observer* is very Angry with his Beloved *Oliver*, who Fought for *Coercion* and the Power of *Parlaments* over *Kings*; that when he got the Power into his own Hands, he would not Assert the *Coercive* Power of *Parlaments* over Himself. And so Cheated all those that Fought for him!

Rehearsal. Poor Fools! And I can tell them, if they had Another and Another *Oliver*, they would all be the same. Do they think an *Oliver* would Fight and Conquer, to put himself under the *Coercion* of those he Commands!

The Plea of *Coercion* over *Kings* is only us'd as *Scaffolding*, wherby *Rebels* Climb up to the *Supreme Power*. But you know when the *House* is Built, the *Scaffolding* is taken away.

(2.) *Country-m*. And the *Observer* and his Friends are as much Disturb'd that they cannot find *Coercion* in the *Revolution*! They Expected it— But the *Convention* took another way, the way of *Abdication*, and that on Purpose to avoid the *Illegal Method* of *Coercion*. Yet the *Whiggs* will still have it to be *Coercion*, because they so Intended it. They will not Believe the *Convention*, but Battle it too! They have not got their Ends in this *Revolution*. And I can tell them they never will. They Quarrel'd with *Oliver* their Deliverer! And let them go through all the *Rebellions* and *Usurpations* that ever were in *England*, or any where else, and they will never find, That any who had got into the *Throne* (by whatever Means) would

Allow of *Coercion* against it. Ther is not a *Whigg* in *Britain* would do it. No, not the *Observer* himself, I'll Answer for him! If he were a *King*, he would put it in no Bodies Power to *Dethrone* him. He would then take your side of the *Question Master*, and Argue, as you do, against *Coercion*. He would then see all the *Mischievous Consequences* that Attend it! He would then Hang such an *Observer* as himself is, who should Justify *Coercion*!

Nay, I'll tell him more, he will never get a *Parlament* to Establish *Coercion* over the *King*, because that would bring *Coercion* over Themselves. For the Power of the *People* extends to Both. And more to the *Parliament*, for it is Certain they are Chosen by the *People*. And we have seen them Legion'd in the Name of the *People*, and Threten'd to be Pull'd in Pieces by them!

(3.) *Rehears*. And now *Country-man*, what is it these *Whiggs* are striving for? A *King* under *Coercion*! Such a thing, that if all the *Whiggs* in *Britain* were made *Kings* after one another, they could never find! And if every one of the *Parlament* was as Rank a *Whigg* as the *Observer*, they would be as far from Allowing *Coercion* over Themselves as Any. Did they do it in 1648? Or do you think they ever will do it? And yet the *Nation* must be set on Fire, Which must not be Suffer'd to go out Day nor Night, to find out this *Philosophers Stone*! We must spend all we have to Grasp this *Shadow*! It will turn every thing it Touches into *Gold*, no Doubt, when we can find it, that is, a *Government* which may do

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us all the Good it can, but in whose Power it shall not be to do us any Hurt!

Country-m. That is, wherein there can be no Mistakes, no Mal-Administration. Which is Impossible, while Government is in the Hands of Men! And to Cure these Mistakes by Coercion, is ten times Worse. It is Hell broke Loose, for the Coercion must go Round, to whoever has the Government, and there can be no End! It makes every Man Judge over the Government, and every Tom, Dick, or WILL, may use Coercion over the Government, and over One another, whenever they so think fit! This is very Confusion and Babel!

(4.) *Rehears.* This Case is so Plain, so Obvious to any one that can but Think, That there is not in Nature such another Instance of Stupidity, of want of Common Sense and Reason, as in those who cannot Understand it! But it proceeds from another Cause. It can be Accounted for no otherwise, than as a Blindness which is Judicial, an Infatuation sent upon that People whom God has Determin'd to Destroy. It Destroys them Inevitably, even by a Natural Consequence; and most Terribly, in making them Destroy one Another. It has never Fail'd to do so in any Country where the Principle of Coercion has Prevail'd. But it is an Astonishment and a Judgement even Beyond this, That while we were yet Bleeding, and the Marks of Ruin every where before our Eyes, of Places, Burnt, and Familys Destroy'd, by this Principle of Coercion; That in the same Age, and while we can yet Remember all this, we should Fall so soon again into the Pit, whence we had but just got out! And this with our Eyes open, and the same Pit still open before Us! That we should be Pleas'd with this Doctrine of Coercion, now Sounding again from Press and Pulpit! This is a Judgement which God has not sent upon any other Nation round about Us. People use to be Aware of what has Hurt them, for some Time at least. They say a Burnt Child will Dread the Fire. But so much Consideration is not left with Us! We are grown Insensible and Obstinate, like the Drunkard Describ'd Prov. xxiii. 35. They have Stricken me, and I was not Sick, they have Beaten me, and I felt it not. When shall I awake? I will seek it yet again. We are hardly Awaken'd out of our late Rebellion. And we seek it yet again! We are Drunk with Rebellion! Nothing will Cure Us! Why should ye be Stricken any more? Ye will Revolt more and more. See how Men in such a Desperate State are Describ'd Isai. viii. 20. And it shall come to pass, that when they shall be Hungry, they shall Fiet themselves, and Curse their King, and their God, and Look Upward.

And by St. John thus, Rev. xvi. 9. And Men were Scorched with great Heat, and Blasphemed the Name of God, who had Power over their Plagues, and they Repented not to give Him Glory.

(5.) I have taken Notice before, That there is no Sin which Hardens the Heart, and Blinds the Eyes like Rebellion. And of which fewer Men Repent. See the Harden'd State of Rebels, under the Head Rebellion in my first Volume. And the Progress of this my Dispute with the Whiggs shews it to a Demonstration! They are Confuted and Confounded, that they have Nothing to say— Yet they will not Repent! No. It is Hid from their Eyes!

(6.) *Country-m.* But I hope it will open the Eyes of others, as it has mine. Grudge not the Pains you have taken, Master, it has done Good. I know it has. I meet with it every where. And if you went to Coffee-Houses, as I do, you would hear it too. You would see Young Men Baffle Old Whiggs, and keep their Noses Close to the Grind-Stone of the Rehearsals. And they have now no Remedy left, but not to go to those Coffee-Houses where the Rehearsals are taken in; and to Threaten those Coffee-Houses they frequent, that they will Quit the House if they take in the Rehearsals. This may offend your Modesty. But I do it to Bully these Sparks a little, and Provoke them (if Possible) to Answer your Arguments. And not to Rail and Scold at you, as they do. Which I tell them, do's you no Harm, but makes them more Ridiculous.

(7.) But some think you write in Concert with the *Observer*. And that he is to put Silly Objections on Purpose for you to Expose, and to leave Blots for you to Hit. And they are the rather of this Opinion, because it so happens sometimes, That you Answer what he says the same Day that his comes out. So that either you must know beforehand what he Writes, or else have an Odd Guess with you what he will be upon Next. Thus yours of the 14 July last is a Direct Answer to his of the same Date. Wherein he says, That the Presbyterians in Scotland took Arms to Rescue the King. And yours shews, That the Presbyterians in Scotland did Oppose and Protest against the Raising an Army to Rescue the King, Declar'd it an Unlawful Engagement, and put those under Censure who were Concern'd in it. To which the *Observer* has not Answer'd one Word since, for he knows it to be plain Fact. And all the Nation knows it. Was not this giving you a Blot to Hit, and then Leaving his Cause in the Lurch? I tell you it Looks as if it were Concerted.